

Safety, health and environmental review

Health and safety

Ordnance Survey is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all its staff and complies fully with Health and Safety legislative requirements. We regularly monitor HSE regulations to keep up to date with and implement any changes. Our Health and Safety team provide an independent, impartial and confidential advice service to all staff. They also help to develop and promote safe working practices in conjunction with the various business groups and carry out appropriate health and safety audits. For example, a campaign to remind staff of the importance of reporting health and safety issues resulted in an increase in the number of accidents recorded. The figures for 2004–05 include near misses and vehicle incidents for the first time.

Environmental review

We are continuing to integrate an Environmental Management System (EMS) to support the Corporate Environmental Policy statement. In addition to being a legal requirement, this also adds value by delivering performance improvements, reducing costs, minimising business risk and reducing our impact on the environment.

The EMS covers the areas of energy, waste, water, the travel plan, estates management and procurement. We are also collating historical and current information to establish baseline data. This will be used to set out a strategy to achieve the targets set in accordance with the Sustainable Development in Government (SDIG) framework.

Energy

The Agency Performance Monitor to reduce emissions from energy consumed is on target, with a reduction of 26% on the baseline year of 2000–01.

Accident statistics*

	2004–05	2003–04	Change
Accidents	99.0	79.0	+25%
Days absence due to accident	131.0	51.5	+154%
Accident rate per 100 staff	0.5**	4.1	-87%
Days absence per accident	1.3	0.65	+100%
Serious accidents reported to Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	11.0	4.0	+175%

* Figures including new assessment criteria for 2004–05

** Based on approximately 2 000 employees (including contractors, interim and agency staff)

Approximately one half of our electricity requirements are met by our own gas-fired combined heat and power plant. The waste heat from the plant is used to heat the offices, reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The remainder of our electricity is obtained from the grid under an electricity contract where electricity is generated from a renewable source. Ordnance Survey thus exceeds government targets to obtain at least 10% of electricity from renewable sources.

Waste

Our packaging waste currently remains under the Packing Regulations threshold of 50 tonnes. In addition, we are expecting to improve last year's figures from 28% to 29% in line with the government target to recover 40% of office waste.

We regularly review our waste streams to prevent waste at source and minimise waste to landfill, with one recent initiative being to remove waste bins from under desks and promote the recycling facilities.

Travel Plan

Our Travel Plan sets out a number of targets covering a three year period to encourage the use of alternative forms of transport to our head office site. The results from our recent surveys show that single occupancy car commuting has reduced from 61% in 2002 to 54% in 2004. A number of initiatives have been introduced to encourage this change such as reserved spaces for car sharers and Bike Week.

This year's Bike Week built on the success of the 2003–04 initiative and included a number of events to promote cycling. The campaign culminated in a Bike2Work day which saw 113 members of staff cycling into work; 37% of whom were prompted to use their bikes as a direct result of the initiative. The distances travelled ranged from under a mile to over 10 miles one way. The feedback regarding the facilities on-site were very good with 64% of staff cycling in on that day and confirming they will consider cycling as an option.

We have also replaced our fleet of pool vehicles with Ford Focus® C-Max 1.6 TDCi LX. These have a low CO2 emission of 129 g/km, plus a low fuel consumption figure of 57.6 mpg (4.11/100 km) on the combined cycle, making them significantly more efficient than the vehicles they replaced. The new cars support the corporate environmental policy by reducing the level of harmful greenhouse gas emissions, in particular carbon dioxide.

Recruitment activity and equal opportunities statistics

The fast-moving GI industry is a dynamic environment in which to work, reflecting the pace of technological advances in modern society. Ordnance Survey has a diverse workforce, contributing a range of expertise to this rapidly-evolving industry. In return, we offer a supportive, family-friendly working environment, training opportunities and benefits.